

REMARKS

The following remarks are fully and completely responsive to the Office Action dated August 10, 2004. Claims 1-2 are pending in this application. In the outstanding Office Action the Abstract was objected to and claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). No new matter has been added. Claims 1-2 are presented for consideration.

Abstract Objection

The Office Action objected to the Abstract. The Abstract has been amended to place the Abstract in better form. Therefore, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract.

35 U.S. C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Kato (U.S. Patent No. 6,504,850) in view of Rector (U.S. Patent No. 5,798,798). In making this rejection, the Examiner asserts that the combination of these two references teaches and/or suggests each and every element of the claimed invention. Applicants disagree and request reconsideration of this rejection.

Claim 1, as amended, recites in part:

recording mode setting for causing a user to select one of a plurality of recording modes corresponding to a recording time period;

first storage means for storing, for each of the recording modes, a target amount of coding per field for the recording mode and a compression rate corresponding to the target amount of coding;

second storage means having a by-channel compression rate storage area for storing the compression rate for each of the plurality of video camera channels;

initial value setting means for setting the compression rate corresponding to the target amount of coding for the recording mode selected by the recording mode setting means, as an initial compression rate in each of the by-channel compression rate storage areas in the second storage means;

Claim 2, as amended, recites in part:

a recording mode setting circuit for causing a user to select one of a plurality of recording modes corresponding to a recording time period,

a first storage device for storing, for each of the recording modes, a target amount of coding per field for the recording mode and a compression rate corresponding to the target amount of coding;

a second storage device having a by-channel compression rate storage area for storing the compression rate for each of the plurality of video camera channels;

an initial value setting circuit for setting the compression rate corresponding to the target amount of coding for the recording mode selected by the recording mode setting circuit, as an initial compression rate in each of the by-channel compression rate storage areas in the second storage device;

The above elements were added to claims 1 and 2 by the present amendment.

After reviewing Kato and Rector, Applicants believe that at least these features are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited prior art.

Accordingly, the combination of Kato and Rector fails to each and/or suggest the claimed invention. Therefore, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Conclusion

Applicants' remarks have overcome the rejection set forth in the Office Action dated August 10, 2004. Specifically, Applicants' amendment to the Abstract overcomes the objection to the Abstract. Applicants' remarks have distinguished claims 1-2 from Kato and Rector and thus overcome the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Accordingly claims 1-2 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-2.

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney by telephone, if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

In the even that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing attorney docket number 107314-00009.

Respectfully submitted,



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